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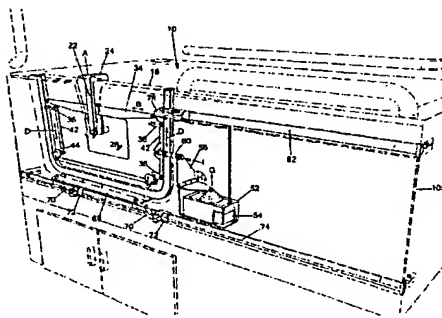
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(54) Title: BATHTUB HAVING SLIDING ACCESS DOOR FOR THE DISABLED AND ELDERLY



(57) Abstract: A bathtub for the disabled or elderly includes a tub (10) having an enclosure defined by at least one sidewall (10a), where the sidewall (10a) has a doorway therein providing access from an external side of the sidewall (10a), external to the enclosure, into the enclosure. A generally horizontal and vertically spaced apart pair of elongate guides (74, 82) are provided in the sidewall (10a). A door is slidably mounted to the guides (74, 82) on at least one pivotable linkage arm (70, 78). The pivotable linkage arm (70, 78) is pivotally mounted to both the door and at least one of the guides, and is adapted for generally horizontal translation along the sidewall (10a), in cooperation with the guides (74, 82), between a closed position wherein the door is releasably lockably mounted in watertight sealed engagement within the doorway, and an open position wherein the door is clear of the aperture and substantially parallel to the sidewall (10a). A releasable latch (40, 48) and a cooperating latch actuator (22) is provided for releasably latching engagement of the door in the watertight sealed engagement in the doorway and for releasing the door from such engagement upon actuation of the latch actuator (22) into a release position by a user in the enclosure. A latch release disabling means (52, 54, 56, 85, 60) is provided for disabling the latch actuator (22) when a fluid level in the enclosure is higher than a threshold level below a lowermost sill of the doorway.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 A47K3/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

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## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X A	EP 0 700 655 A (REMO PARO) 13 March 1996 (1996-03-13) column 2, line 17 -column 4, line 25; figures 1,2,4	1 8,10,11, 14-16
X A	US 4 546 506 A (HOULE RAYMOND T ET AL) 15 October 1985 (1985-10-15) column 5, line 13 -column 13, line 50; figures 1,3,5,6,8,9,12	1 3-8,11, 12
X A	US 4 399 569 A (HOULE RAYMOND T) 23 August 1983 (1983-08-23) column 3, line 20 -column 7, line 12; figures 1-3,5-7	1 5,11-16

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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X	EP 0 913 115 A (LANDI ANTONIO ;SECHI GIUSEPPE (IT)) 6 May 1999 (1999-05-06) cited in the application	1
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Information on patent family members

International

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